

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
BIRD RECORDS
DECEMBER - FEBRUARY 1996-97

March 10, 1997

Attached is a list of observations reported by visitors and staff for the period December 1 - February 28. I've compiled only those observations for species which are listed as **Rare, Accidental, Hypothetical** or **Not included** (?) on the park's checklist. A "**?-win**" indicates a species on the checklist but not for the winter season.

This is going to be a very quick note as your deadline is soon and we're very busy with the spring break crowd. This was a cooler and wetter winter than last year. Precipitation totals for the three month period: Panther Junction: 1.36" (+1.19"). Chisos Basin: 2.82" (+2.59"). Rio Grande Village: 0.12" (+1.24"). Castolon: 1.25" (+1.20"). Persimmon Gap: 0.09" (+0.78"). This unusual winter rainfall, coupled with last summer's precipitation, set up good supplies of surface water and a good crop of seed.

We observed an excellent diversity of winter sparrow and finch populations. Expected wintering sparrows like chipping and Brewer's were present in very high numbers, as well as more unusual species like LeConte's and Harris sparrows. Cassin's and purple finches were also present, as well as red crossbills, high numbers of pine siskins and lesser goldfinches. Once again, as in 1996, there was a tantalizing report of a female trogon on the Window Trail, but no documentation or further observations.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
BIRD RECORDS
DECEMBER - FEBRUARY 1996-97

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Least Bittern	1	12/29	Rio Grande Vill.	Stinnet/Miller	?-win
Blue-winged teal	?	1/05	Cottonwood camp.	Bill Bourbon	rare
Northern shoveler	3	1/24	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
Lesser scaup	2	1/24	Rio Grande Vill.	" "	rare
Hooded merganser	1	2/22-23	Rio Grande Vill.	Davis, Faulkner Punjabi	acc
Swainson's Hawk	1	2/25	Castolon	Bill Bourbon	early
Wild turkey	1	12/19	Grapevine Hills	Charles Davis	rare
	1	2/25	" "	Roger Barnaby	"
	1	2/28	" "	?	"
Virgina Rail	1	12/26	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	1/24	" "	" "	"
Western sandpiper	1	1/06	Cotttonwood camp.	" "	rare
Common ground-dove	2	1/06	Cottonwood camp.	" "	spo
Anna's hummingbird	1	12/13	Panther Junction	" "	acc
	1	12/29	Rio Grande Vill.	Val Naylor B&F Heyman	acc
Elegant trogon	1*	2/04	Window trail	Elizabeth Brooks	acc
*Review species; report sent to TBRC:Lasley unconfirmed. No record of TBRC action					
Gray flycatcher	1	12/29	Rio Grande Vill.	V.Naylor B&F Heyman	rare
	1	2/13	Cottonwood camp.	Michelle Davis	"
Ash-throated Flycatcher	1	12/25	Rio Grande Vill.	E&W Kappes W.Nehls	spo
	1	1/24	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	"
Pygmy Nuthatch	voice	2/15	Window Trail	Doug Faulkner	spo
Winter wren	1	12/28	Juniper Canyon	Mark Flippo	? win

Mountain bluebird	20+	12/08	Cottonwood camp.	Bill Bourbon	spo
	2	1/20	Lost Mine trail	Mark Flippo	
Rufous-backed robin	1*	2/14	Rio Grande Santa Elena Cyn	Marcos Paredes	hyp
* Review species; report sent to TBRC:Lasley unconfirmed (Accepted 6/98)					
Sage Thrasher	many	through period	throughout park	many obs.	spo
Black & White warbler	1	12/07	Cottonwood camp.	Bill Bourbon	acc
Blue Grosbeak	1	12/29	Glen Springs Rd	Brian Hale	acc
	2	2/14	Rte 11, mp 10	Arvind Punjabi	"
Varied Bunting	2	2/06	Chisos Basin	Mark Flippo	spo
Clay-colored Sparrow	many	through period,	throughout park		spo
Field sparrow	4	12/03	Rte 11, mp 10	Bill Bourbon	spo
	1	2/06	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	"
	1	2/14	Rte 11, mp 10	" "	"
	1	2/27	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	"
Lark bunting	many	through period,	throughout park		spo
Sage sparrow	1	1/24	Rte 11, mp 10	Mark Flippo	spo
Grasshopper sparrow	5	12/03	Rte 11, mp 10	Bill Bourbon	spo
	1	12/07	" "	Mark Flippo	"
	2	1/26	" "	Bill Bourbon	"
	1	2/6	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	"
LeConte's spar.	2	1/24	" "	RDobbs, PMartin	acc
	1	2/07	" "	Bill Bourbon	"
	1	2/14	Rte 11, mp 10	Mark Flippo	"
Harris sparrow	1	2/20	Panther Junction	Faulkner/Flippo	acc
Cassin's finch	15-20	12/28	Laguna Mdw Trail	Ken Stinnet	spo
	3	1/20	Green Gulch	Mark Flippo	"
Purple finch	4	12/29	Gravel Pit	KStinnet/TMiller	? win
	1	2/25	Panther Junction	Michelle Davis	"

	1	2/27	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	"
Red crossbill	14	12/28	Lost Mine Trail	Ken Stinnet	spo
	3	2/14-28	Panther Junction	many obs.	"

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
MARCH - MAY 1997

June 8, 1997

Attached is a list of observations reported by visitors and staff for the period March 1 - May 31. I've compiled only those observations for species which are listed as **Rare, Accidental, Hypothetical** or **Not included** (?) on the park's checklist. A "?spr" indicates a species which is documented for the park but not in the spring season.

Like most of the Trans-Pecos region, we have experienced a very wet and relatively cool spring season. Year to date precipitation as compared to ytd totals through May 1996 (+ or -) is as follows: Panther Junction; 6.86 " (+ 4.79"), Chisos Basin; 7.60" (+ 5.35"), Rio Grande Village; 5.20" (+2.70"), Castolon; 4.31" (+ 3.74"), and Persimmon Gap; 5.00" (+3.27").

The impact of the increased rainfall and cooler temperatures on this year's migration through the Big Bend seems to have been significant. With more available surface water and better forage than the previous year, migrants seemed to be more dispersed and traveling more quickly. (peak migration was about April 20 - May 7, about the same as last year, but with far less activity). Too, we had far fewer eastern vagrants than the previous year, particularly with regard to warblers. Most of the weather systems that brought rain and wind this season came from the north-northwest, perhaps contributing to the lower incidence of eastern species.

This isn't to say that the spring season didn't have any highlights. Many of the winter's crop of sparrows and finches lingered in the area well into April, including purple and Cassin's finches, red crossbills, pine siskins, and large numbers of clay-colored and Brewer's sparrows. A number of Texas review species were reported in the park but unfortunately none were documented with photographs. Some of the more intriguing reports include; **Northern pygmy-owl** (call only) on 4/22 in Boot Canyon (Arvind Punjabi - NBS researcher), a pair of nesting **Northern saw-whet owls** in Boot Canyon (P. Trollman), and a **yellow-green vireo** on 4/24 at Rio Grande Village (Geoff LeBaron). All three species have been reported in the park before and are currently listed as "accidental". Copies of these reports have been submitted to the Texas Bird Records Committee.

Two other review species reports are interesting in that they repeat observations from last spring. Roland Wauer reported a voice only identification of **Dusky-capped Flycatcher** in Pine Canyon on May 10. This date is almost one year to the day from last year's reports of the same species in the same location. This species is listed as "accidental" in the park. A **Tropical kingbird** report from Cottonwood Campground on 5/17 (Taylor, Geasey, Moore) echoes last year's first park record of tropical kingbird at the same location. Currently this species is not listed for the park, pending a decision by the Texas Bird Records Committee on the 6-7/96 observations. Both reports were submitted to the TBRC for review.

The annual Black-capped vireo survey was also conducted in May. This year 33 vireos and nine nests were located, a welcome increase from the 19 vireos and four nests found on the 1996 survey. As in the previous three years, there was no evidence of brown-headed cowbird parasitism.

Peregrine falcons were monitored through the season, and will continued to be watched until fledging is completed. To date there are 12 known active pair in and near the park, two less than last year. To date seven fledglings in three nests have been located. Park staff recovered an injured female Peregrine in Santa Elena Canyon on May 8 and transported her to a rehab center in San Antonio. Initial report is that the bird suffered a stress fracture of the ulna and may require a pin to repair the broken bone. Our hope is to return the falcon to the canyon once she recuperates. It appears that this female was not a paired breeder from one of the three know nests in the canyon.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
MARCH - MAY 1997

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Am. white pelican	1	4/04	Rio Grande Vill.	E.A. Beauchesne	acc.
Little blue heron	1	5/02	Cottonwood Camp.	Bill Bourbon	acc.
Black-crowned night-heron	2	4/17-18	Rio Grande Vill.	Arvind Punjabi Lars Pomara	rare
Lesser scaup	1	4/15	Rio Grande Vill.	Valerie Naylor	rare
Ruddy duck	11	3/25	Rio Grande Vill.	Punjabi, Pomara Davis	rare
N. Goshawk	1*	4/25	Rio Grande Vill.	P. Abbott G. LeBaron	?spr.
*Review species; Reports sent to TBRC:Lasley Unconfirmed (rejected 7/25/99)					
Common black-hawk	1	3/22-31	Rio Grande Vill.	Many observers	rare
	2	4/01-30	" " "	Many observers	rare
	2	5/01-31	" " "	Many observers	rare
White-tailed hawk	1	4/15	Cottonwood Camp.	Peter Debbs	acc
	1	5/30	" "	Sandi & Bob Duchesne	"
Merlin	1	3/14	Dagger Flats	Liller, McHenry	rare
Apomado falcon	1**	3/31	Rio Grande Vill.	Steven Nemetz	hyp
**Hypothetical in summer. This report unconfirmed.					
Wild turkey	1	3/01-02	Grapevine Hills	M.J.Kavanangry	rare
Gambel's quail	3	4/16	Mule Ears	Mark Cranford	rare
Baird's sandpiper	1	4/26	Rio Grande Vill.	Punjabi, Pomara Davis, Faulkner	rare
	1	5/07	" " "	Bill Boubon	rare
	4	5/09	" " "	Mark Flippo	rare
Ring-billed gull	27	3/25	Boquillas Cross	Doug Faulkner	acc.
	1	4/25	Hot Springs	Mark Flippo	acc.
Franklin's gull	1	5/09	Rio Grande Vill.	Michelle Davis	rare
Least tern	1	4/12	Marathon	Judith King	acc.

	1	4/27	Cottonwood Camp.	Michelle Davis	
Burrowing owl	1	3/06	Dagger Flats Rd	Michelle Davis	rare
Long-eared owl	1**	4/24	McKinney Springs	Michelle Davis	?spr.
**Rare in summer.					
N. Pygmy owl	1*	4/22	Boot Canyon	A.Punjabi	acc
*Review species; Report sent to TBRC:Lasley Identified by call. Unconfirmed					
N.Saw-whet owl	2*	5/16-17	Boot Canyon	P. Trollman	? spr.
*Review species; Report sent to TBRC:Lasley Unconfirmed (Accepted 7/25/99)					
Ruby-throated hummingbird	1	4/26	Boquillas Cross	Doug Faulkner	rare
Calliope hummingbird	1**	4/07	Boquillas Cross	Doug Faulkner	?spr.
**Rare in fall.					
Green kingfisher	1	3/15	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	3/29	" " "	Dale Ohl	rare
Dusky-capped flycatcher	1*	4/17	Rio Grande Vill.	Neal Clark	acc
	1*	5/10	Pine Canyon	Ro Wauer	acc
*Review species; reports sent to TBRC:Lasley.Unconfirmed(4/17 accepted7/25/99)					
Great-crested flycatcher	1	5/04	Cottonwood Camp.	Michelle Davis	acc.
Brown-crested flycatcher	1	3/11	Rio Grande Vill.	Chris Merkord	rare
	1	4/03	Paint Gap Rd	Brian Perker	rare
	1	4/25	Maverick Rd	P.Abbott, G.LeBaron	rare
Thick-billed kingbird	1*	5/08	Chisos Basin	Ron Knaus	acc.
*Review species; report sent to TBRC:Lasley. Unconfirmed					
Tropical kingbird	1*	5/17	Cottonwood Camp.	R.Taylor,B.Geasey J.Moore	? spr.
*Review species; report sent to TBRC:Lasley. Unconfirmed Only the 4th record in park. First record: 6/96 Barry Lyon.					
Cave Swallow	1	4/17	Cottonwood Camp.	Michelle Davis	rare

Red-breasted nuthatch	1	3/12	Rio Grande Vill.	Chirs Merkord	spo
Carolina wren	2**	Mar-Apr	Rio Grande Vill	Many obs.	?spr
**Rare in summer & winter.					
Sedge wren	1**	4/05	Alamo Creek	Mark Flippo	?spr.
**Accidental in winter.					
Golden-crowned kinglet	1	3/14	Upper Pine Canyon	Michelle Davis	spo.
Eastern bluebird	4**	3/15	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	?spr.
	1**	3/21	" " "	J.Liller B.McHenry	?spr.
	1**	5/07	Cottonwood camp.	Dale Ohl	?spr.
**Uncommon in winter.					
Mountain bluebird	1	3/06	Rte 11, mp 10	Michelle Davis	rare
Wood thrush	1	4/09	Dugout Wells	Rick Taylor	acc
	1	5/20	Boulder Mdws	Alan Swain III	acc
Gray catbird	1	4/17	Rio Grande Vill.	Michelle Davis	rare
Black-capped vireo	1	3/19	Rio Grande Vill.	Michelle Davis	rare
	2	5/13	Pine Canyon	Lars Pomara	rare
	1	5/15	" "	Guy Luneau	rare
	2	5/28	Window Trail	Rhandy Helton	rare
Gray Vireo	many	April-May		many observers	rare
Philadelphia vireo	1	3/17	Rio Grande Vill.	Liller, McHenry	rare
	1	4/08	Laguna Mdw.	Rick Taylor	rare
Yellow-green vireo	1*	4/24	Rio Grande Vill.	Geoff LeBaron	?spr.
*Review species; Report sent to TBRC:Lasley. Unconfirmed (3rd circ 7/25/99-not accepted 4/01).					
Cape May warbler	1	5/02	Cottonwood Camp.	Ro Wauer	acc
Black-throated blue warbler	1	5/07	Laguna Mdws	Lars Pomara	rare

Black-throated Gray warbler	1	4/21	River Road East	Michelle Davis	rare
	2	4/22	Casa Grande-Basin	" "	rare
	1	4/23	Panther Junction	" "	rare
	1	4/27	Blue Creek	Fawcett, Weston	rare
Black-throated green warbler	1	5/09	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
Yellow-throated warbler	1	4/01	Hannold Draw	Bill Bourbon	rare
	1	4/03	" "	Michelle Davis	rare
	1	4/17	Rio Grande Vill.	Michelle Davis	rare
Blackpoll warb.	1	4/20	Cottonwood Camp.	Davis, Flippo	acc
Prothonotory warbler	1	4/22	Dugout Wells	Colin Hedderick	acc
	1	5/5-6	Panther Junction	Wendy & Mark Flippo	"
Worm-eating warbler	1	4/27	Blue Creek	Overman, Wormington	rare
	1	5/14	Boot Canyon	Guy Luneau	rare
Kentucky warbler	1	5/01	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	acc.
Hooded warbler	1	4/27	Blue Creek	Overman, Wormington	rare
Red-faced warbler	1*	4/23	Boot Canyon	Arvind Punjabi	spo

***Review species: Report sent to TBRC:Lasley Unconfirmed.(Accepted 9/98)**

Red-breasted grosbeak	1	5/03	Cottonwood Camp.	Valerie Naylor	rare
Lazuli bunting	1	4/23	Dugout Wells	Michelle Davis	rare
	1	5/02	Cottonwood Camp.	Bill Bourbon	rare
	1	5/02	Laguna Mdw. Tr.	Michelle Davis	rare
Sage sparrow	1	3/03	Rte 11, mp 10	Lars Pomara	?spr
	1	3/19	Paint Gap Rd	Michelle Davis	?spr
LeConte's sparrow	1	3/06	Rte 11, mp 10	Michelle Davis	acc.
Hooded oriole	2-3	April-May	Cottonwood camp.	many observers	rare
Purple finch	3	3/04	Chisos Basin	Michelle Davis	acc.
	2	3/22	" "	A.Meves	acc.

	4	4/23	" "	Jim Hines	acc.
Cassin's finch	12	3/11	Casa Grande-Basin	Michelle Davis	spo.
	3	3/14	Lost Mine Trail	" "	spo.
	4	3/15	Dugout Wells	Mark Flippo	spo.
	5	3/16	Panther Junction	many observers	spo.
	1	4/14	Chisos Basin	EE Goldman	spo.
	1	4/14	Panther Junction	Jane Graves	spo.
Red Crossbill	2-3	Mar-April	Panther Junction	several observ	spo.
	2	5/13	Panther Junction	Giff Beaton	spo.
	2	5/16	Laguna Mdw Tr.	Doug Smith	spo

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
JUNE-JULY, 1998

August 03, 1997

Attached is a list of observations reported by visitors and staff for the period June 1 - July 31. I've compiled only those observations for species which are listed as **Rare, Accidental, Hypothetical** or **Not included** (?) on the park's checklist. A "?sum" indicates a species which is documented for the park but not in the summer season.

June and July in the Big Bend were wetter and cooler than normal, continuing the trend from the spring season. Temperatures didn't reach the 100 degree range until late June and not again until the latter portion of July. Year to date precipitation as compared to ytd totals through July 1996(+ or -) is as follows: Panther Junction; 13.47" (+8.66"), Chisos Basin; 12.04" (+2.85"), Rio Grande Village; 8.77" (+5.67"), Castolon; 6.64" (+3.63"), and Persimmon Gap; 9.23" (+5.72"). Even Lajitas, on the western edge of the park, has received more than 10 inches of rain thus far this year. The park is so green it almost hurts to look at (not really).

It has been relatively quiet in the park with regard to unusual birds but there have been a couple of highlights. First were two reports of **thick-billed kingbird** on the nature trail at Rio Grande Village. The observations, coming a week apart, were not verified with photographs or other detailed information. I went down on both occasions but was unable to relocate the bird. These reports echo Victor Emanuel's and Barry Zimmer's observation from the same location almost one year ago. The most significant observation came at the end of the reporting period from Greg Lasley and Chuck Sexton. On the morning of July 28 in Pine Canyon they observed and photographed a **sulphur-bellied flycatcher**. While both observers were doubtful that their photographs would come out due to poor light conditions, hopefully at least one will be definitive enough for documentation purposes. (I wasn't able to get into Pine Canyon until August 2 and, as usual, could not find the bird. I did hear one call however, that was very suggestive of the "rubber duck" call near the same location as the original observation. Lasley and Sexton did not hear the bird vocalize.) This species is listed as "accidental" in the park for summer, but there are no TBRC accepted reports for Big Bend. Wauer (1996) lists six reports from 1969 to 1991.

To reiterate and update other breeding bird information from the spring report; The annual Black-capped vireo survey was conducted in May. This year 33 vireos and nine nests were located, a welcome increase from the 19 vireos and four nests found on the 1996 survey. As in the previous three years, there was no evidence of brown-headed cowbird parasitism.

Peregrine falcons were monitored through July. Twelve active pair were located in and near the park, two less than last year. A total of seventeen fledglings were observed, eleven more than in 1996 and a park record since scientific monitoring began in 1979.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
JUNE-JULY, 1998

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
White-faced ibis	1	6/03	La Cloch	Brian Hudgens	rare late
Purple gallinule	1	6/06	Rio Grande Vill.	Sharon Terry	? sum.
Black-crowned night-heron	1	6/01	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	acc.
Common Black-Hawk	1	6/06	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	6/17	Rio Grande Vill.	Gary Clark	rare
	2	6/23	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
Swainson's hawk	1	6/06	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
Prairie falcon	1	6/28	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
Common Ground-Dove	1	6/03	Rio Grande Vill.	Chris Merkord	rare
Black-billed cuckoo	1	6/03	Sam Nail Ranch	Ken Hackman Joe Hopkins	acc.
Willow flycatcher	1	6/06	Sam Nail Ranch	Mark Flippo	rare late
Tropical kingbird	3-4*	5/24	Cottonwood Camp.	T.Morgan,K.Walz	?
	2*	5/31	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	?
	2*	6/06	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	acc.
	1*	6/20	Cottonwood Camp.	Gary Clark	acc.
	4*	6/28	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	acc.
* Review Species; Report sent to TBRC:Lasley on 5/31. 1 pair on nest. Possible second nesting pair at north end of campground.					
Eastern kingbird	1	6/04	Cottonwood Camp.	Donald White	rare late
Scissor-tailed flycatcher	1im	6/23	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	? sum.
Swainson's thrush	1	6/04	Boot Canyon	Chris Merkord	late
	1	6/05	Chisos Basin	Philip Faurot	late
American pipit	1	6/11	Chisos Basin	Laura Karr	late
Phainopepla	2m,f	6/21	Chisos Basin	Gary Clark	rare

White-eyed vireo	1	6/14	Sam Nail Ranch	Mark Flippo	rare late
Black-capped vireo	1m	6/20	Window Trail	Paul Sunby	rare
Red-eyed Vireo	1	6/02	Laguna Mdw Trail	Ken Hackman	rare late
	1	6/03	Rio Grande Vill.	Chris Merkord	rare late
	1	6/03	Sam Nail Ranch	Ken Hackman	rare late
Yellow-green vireo	1*	6/07	Dugout Wells	Mark Flippo	acc.
* Review Species; Report sent to TBRC:Lasley.					
Northern parula	1f	6/14	Sam Nail Ranch	Mark Flippo	rare
Magnolia warbler	1m	6/03	Sam Nail Ranch	Joe Hopkins	acc. late
	1m	6/04	Sam Nail Ranch	Donald White	acc. late
Townsend's warb.	1m	6/27	Boot Canyon	Kevin Rolle	late
Blackburnian warbler	1f	6/03	Sam Nail Ranch	Ken Hackman	acc. late
	1f	6/06	Panther Junction	Sarah Bourbon	acc. late
Yellow-throated warbler	1	6/04	La Clocha	Brian Hudgens	rare late

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
AUGUST - NOVEMBER 1997

December 04, 1997

Attached is a list of observations reported by visitors and staff for the period Sept.1 - Nov. 31. I've compiled only those observations for species which are listed as **Rare, Accidental, Hypothetical** or **Not included** (?) on the park's checklist. A "?fall" indicates a species which is documented for the park but not in the fall season.

August started out with a number of good rains but the final two weeks were hot and dry. This hot and dry trend carried through into September with many very warm days interspersed with isolated heavy showers in certain areas, particularly around Panther Junction. Temperatures cooled down through October and November with a few small cold fronts passing through and bringing some moisture, but no significant movement of birds. Year to date precipitation as compared to ytd totals through November 1996(+ or -) is as follows: Panther Junction; 17.12"(+2.68"), Chisos Basin; 17.12" (+0.78"), Rio Grande Village; 10.70" (+3.92"),Castolon; 7.04"(-2.87"), and Persimmon Gap; 11.72" (+3.48"). The migration this year was pretty quiet, with only a few noticeable "waves" moving through the area, mostly mid-August and again in early November. Shorebirds and ducks have been conspicuously few in numbers, and thrushes, vireos and warblers have also been rather quiet. So far we haven't seen the movement of winter sparrow and finch species like we saw last fall/winter, but there have been good numbers of chipping, clay-colored and Brewer's sparrows out on the Tornillo Flats and other grassy areas.

It has been relatively quiet in the park with regard to unusual birds but there have been a couple of highlights, most coming from August. On August 10, Brush Freeman and Petra Hockey spent the day in Pine Canyon and relocated the **sulphur-bellied flycatcher** first reported by Lasley and Sexton on July 28. About a week later Ro Wauer went into the canyon in search of the flycatcher but was unable to find it. This species is listed as "accidental" in the park for summer, but there are no TBRC accepted reports for Big Bend. Wauer (1996) lists six reports from 1969 to 1991. Freeman,Hockey, Wauer and Mark Adams, in their search for the sulphur-bellied also found a **worm-eating warbler** in Pine Canyon (8/10 & 8/20 respectively). A rare migrant in spring, the worm-eating warbler has not been previously reported here as an early fall migrant.

The September-November period has been relatively quiet in the park with regard to rare or unexpected species. A **wood thrush** at the Sam Nail Ranch provided an apparent first fall record for that species, occurring accidentally in the park during the spring. Two reports of **gray catbird**, an accidental fall species, came from the Rio Grande Village area, one in October near the Daniel's Ranch and a November sighting along the nature trail adjacent to the campground. The Rio Grande Village area also produced a late observation of **Tennessee warbler** in a mixed flock of orange-crowned, Nashville, and yellow-rumped warblers. Again, other than these few rarities, it has been quiet, but all the regular resident and winter species are here to be found.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
AUGUST - NOVEMBER 1997

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Least Bittern	1	8/06	Rio Grande Vill.	M.Flippo T.Steele K.Scheuner	rare
	1	9/23	Rio Grande Vill.	Paula Shacklee	rare
Double-crested Cormorant	1	11/22	Basin Oxid. pond	Mark Adams	rare
Snow goose	1	10/31	Boquillas Cyn.	Marcos Paredes	rare
Merlin	1	9/30	Boot Canyon	Erin Siegel	rare
	2	11/08	Rio Grande Vill.	Barbara Wellner	rare
Virginia rail	1	11/09	Rio Grande Vill.	B&F Heyman	rare
Willet	1	8/22	Panther Junction	Bill Bourbon	rare
Franklin's gull	1	11/02	Boquillas Cyn.	Marcos Paredes	rare
Burrowing owl	1	11/02	Tornillo Flats	Mark Flippo	rare
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1	8/7-31	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	9/1-7	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
Anna's Hummingbird	1	9/30	Willow Mountain	Sarah Bourbon	rare
	1	11/29	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
Calliope Hummingbird	1	8/11	Boot Spring	Brush Freeman Petra Hockey	rare
Green Kingfisher	1	8/08	Rio Grande Vill.	Nancy Normcey	rare
	1	8/09	" "	Mark Flippo	rare
	2	9/1-30	" "	Many observers	rare
	2	10/1-31	" "	" "	rare
	2	11/1-30	" "	" "	rare
Dusky Flycatcher	1	8/10	Pine Canyon	Freeman, Hockey	acc

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Brown-crested Flycatcher	2	8/11	Rio Grande Vill.	Freeman,Hockey	rare
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher	1*	8/10	Pine Canyon	Freeman,Hockey	acc
* Review Species; Photographs and reports to TBRC:Lasley. 5 previous unconfirmed reports from park.					
Wood thrush	1	10/03	Sam Nail Ranch	Penny Coreton	?fall
Gray catbird	1	10/05	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	acc.
	1	11/07	Rio Grande Vill.	Barbara Wellner	acc
Black-capped Vireo	2	8/12	" "	Freeman, Hockey	rare
	4**	8/19	" "	Ro Wauer	rare
** Male & female on nest with 2 young.					
Gray vireo	1	11/02	Hannold Draw	Mark Flippo	rare
Red-eyed Vireo	2	8/10	Rio Grande Vill.	V.Emanuel,B.Zimmer	?fall
Tennessee Warb.	1	10/05	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	acc.
Worm-eating Warb.	1	8/10	Pine Canyon	Freeman,Hockey	?fall
	1	8/20	Pine Canyon	R.Wauer,M.Adams	?fall
N. Waterthrush	1	8/12	Sam Nail Ranch	Freeman,Hockey	rare
	1	8/23	Boot Canyon	Ro Wauer	rare